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Charles W. Penrose, Editor
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SALT LAKE CITY, - JUNE 20, 1902.

KING ALBERT.

King Albert, of Saxony, whose death has just been announced, has for the past two years suffered from cancer, and his dissolution has been expected the past few weeks. He has reigned since 1873, when he succeeded his father. His consort, Queen Caroline, is a descendant of the Swedish house of Vasa, being a daughter of Prince Gustavus of Holstein-Gottorp. They have no children. The royal house of Saxony is one of the oldest of the reigning families in Europe. It was founded in 1099 by Heinrich of Eilenburg, of the ancient family of Wettin, who reigned until 1182, and was succeeded by his son, Conrad the Great.

SEEING THE FUTURE.

Maurice Maeterlinck, the Belgian novelist, has made a special study of so-called clairvoyance and other similar phenomena, and he is said to have come to the conclusion that there is no apparent reason why human beings should not see the future with the same degree of certainty as he perceives the past. A slight change, he thinks, in the convolutions of the brain might be sufficient to endow people with this gift. Prophets, however, have been few and far between, while fakirs, pretenders, and substitutes have been numerous. This is an attempt at explaining philosophically the fact that some people undeniably have had the prophetic gift. It has the merit of novelty. Whether it is the true explanation or not, is a different question. A great many persons have refused to believe in the prophetic gift, for the simple reason that they are unable to account for its existence on the basis of anything that is known for certain about the human faculties. Should Mr. Maeterlinck's suggestion be found to have a true philosophical basis, skepticism would be deprived of one of its main supports. For it would mean that the human mind is so wonderfully endowed by the Creator, that, under certain circumstances, it can comprehend the future in the same way as it sees the past, provided that the proper development has taken place.

NO INCONSISTENCY.

There is no inconsistency in the attitude of the "News" toward the two text-book conventions. On the 12th of this month, this paper took occasion to say of the selection of the state text-book convention:

"We believe that in most and perhaps all instances, the convention has chosen good books, although we have not yet had sufficient opportunity to make a thorough examination as to the merits of the various books adopted."

That is, in substance, what the "News" has said of the selections of the City Board of Education, too.

Now as to the statement that "with the exception of the geographies, substantially the same books were selected" by the two conventions, these are the facts, as to the books in daily use: Readers are only partly the same; histories, partly the same; geographies, different; arithmetics, the same; penmanship, partly the same and drawing, no selection by the city board. Whether this is a list substantially different or substantially the same, we leave to the judgment of the intelligent reader.

It is well known that the state text-book convention was the object of criticism on the ground, as alleged, that good business judgment was not exercised in regard to prices. It was supposed that as good contracts could have been secured for Utah as for some other states, this we conceive to have been the chief issue, and it is useless to conceal this by calling up side issues. The expenditure of public funds is a matter in which all taxpayers are interested, and they naturally demand the best return for their money. Hence the injunction which, as we have explained, was asked for on the ground that some of the proceedings of the convention were not in conformity with law. But that is a question not raised by the "News." We can only reiterate that if there was no irregularity in the work, it will stand as it is; otherwise it will probably have to be done over again, and if the facts are as alleged, this may mean a substantial saving to the public.

CALLING NAMES.

Addressing the Tilden club Mr. Cleveland said, in speaking of the Democratic party: "Whatever the measure of its impairment may be, our condition as an organization cannot be improved by calling each other harsh names."

No truth is plainer, no truth oftener violated. In a very large measure politics is nothing but "calling names." It is seldom that the party paper or the party speaker appeals to the reason of its readers or its hearers. Call your opponents names and as a rule the better the listeners like it. But it does

no good; on the contrary it works much harm. If the individual does not like to be called harsh names no more does the individual in association like it. It makes prejudice more deep seated instead of removing it; instead of placating people it stirs up their anger and hatred; it causes them to be ruled by their passions in place of their reason.

The practice of harsh name calling is not confined to politics alone, though it finds its greatest field there. It is a bad practice that obtains to some extent in all departments in life. In times past it has been a favorite weapon in religious controversies, and the harsher the names and the more loudly and the oftener they were called the greater, in their own opinion, the sanctification of the shouters. There probably never were greater adepts at this business than Luther and his opponents. The consequence has been that Catholic and Protestant have hated each other with an undying and unsurpassable hatred ever since.

In our own State harsh name calling has been indulged to a very considerable extent, and as in all other places and cases it has done no good. It still has its adherents and not unfrequently they break forth in diatribes against the majority of the people of the State; it is a particularly delightful occupation to some members of ministerial associations. They accomplish nothing and embitter their own souls.

Harsh name calling, in politics, religion and common life, only begets malice and hatred. It is the soft answer that turns away wrath.

NATIONAL HOMES BILL.

The "News" has received a copy of a bill which seems to have been introduced in the House and referred to the committee on public lands, in December 1900. The object of the measure is "to provide homes and employment for the homeless poor and make them self-sustaining home owners."

Few persons in the country, probably, are aware of the fact that such a bill is peacefully slumbering in the recesses of a committee room, awaiting the basis of some trumpet, to make it rise. Its provisions are remarkable enough, however, to secure for it some attention.

The measure contemplates the establishment of a "Bureau of National Homes," under the control of the secretary of agriculture. It authorizes the secretary to select five million acres of public land and call for laborers to improve it, by building homes, irrigation systems, and otherwise. These laborers shall be selected from the poor and homeless people of the country. All money expended for the improvement of the land shall be paid by the beneficiaries, as specified in the bill. The land is to be subdivided into small farms and transferred to the laborers, as fast as applicants for homes send in their names. The subdivided land is to be farmed collectively on equitable terms to the workers thereon. Manufacturing and mining industries are also to be provided for under the directions of the secretary of agriculture.

There are two peculiar provisions in the bill. One is that every evangelical minister or missionary may live in the national homes, "and have the full benefit of the land belonging to the cottage therein, in which he or she resides, as long as he or she does Gospel work for said employees."

The other declares "that no crying of hawkers, or rag or soap-grease men, or of newsboys, or similar disturbance, no elevated railway, no streetcars (on or below the ground), unless noisier or drawn by horses without bells, and no cobblestone or similar noisy pavements be, at any time, allowed on any of the lands mentioned in section three of this act."

It may be of interest to see a specimen of much that finds its way into the halls of our national legislature. But otherwise it is difficult to imagine what the object of such a measure is. The American people are not as yet prepared for a socialistic experiment on a wholesale scale. The question of relief for the poor has, so far, been left to individual benevolence or communal charity arrangements. The general government has not considered the solution of that problem as belonging to its functions, except in cases of great and sudden calamities, when immediate relief was required.

There is another problem just now before the public, which may demand attention. The coal strikers are contemplating the call of a national convention of miners, for the purpose of discussing the advisability of calling out all coal miners in the country on a general strike. This would involve, it is said, 250,000 men, or including families, over a million people. That is to say, because the operators in one section of the country refuse to agree to the demands of their employees, therefore hundreds of thousands who have no grievance, must quit work; and irreparable damage is to be inflicted upon the business of the entire country. For that is what a general strike of coal miners would mean. The people will probably at no distant date, feel called upon to take precautions against the recurrence of such conditions. They may demand laws for the regulation of labor and capital, with a view of preventing the industrial wars that are constantly being waged at the expense of the people's which in the last instance are the losers.

And then, when it has been found necessary for the government to take the labor question in hand, it may follow that something must be done for the poor and homeless, too, but it is not probable that relief measures would take the form of the National Homes Bill.

In the meantime it can do no harm to call attention to the fact that there are thousands of homeless people, who but need a fair opportunity, under proper leadership, to become independent. Whatever can be done, within reason, for such persons is that much more prosperity and happiness distributed throughout the country.

If Pelee keeps on throwing out slime its name will soon be mud.

President Roosevelt's heart is as

much set on Cuban reciprocity as it was on Cuban freedom.

About the swiftest thing in this country is the pension roll.

It is not unlikely that at Blackfoot there are some black sheep.

The beef trust continues to hold its own and add something to it.

The filing of a motion for a new trial by Mortensen's attorneys, raises a good many people.

Can it be that in wearing knee breeches at the coronation special ambassador Reid has an eye to the Garter?

His name would indicate that Senator Buencamino's mission to the United States is to preach the doctrine of good roads.

Senator Morgan will have to build his Nicaragua canal all alone except what help he can get from Senator Stewart.

"Money is not everything," says Gen. Wood. The general has adopted the theory that he who steals my purse steals trash.

Mayor Hinchcliffe of Paterson, N. J., proposes to be boss of his town and suppress the rioters. The whole country will wish him success.

The pursuers of Tracy and Merrill, the convicts who escaped from the Oregon penitentiary, certainly have had a run for their money.

Panama wins over Nicaragua. It is generally conceded to be the better route, and in the matter of a canal the best should be chosen.

The senior class at Princeton has decided, among other preferences, that the best of girl's names is Helen. Paris was of the same opinion.

The adoption of text books for the schools of the state has furnished texts for many communications and pretext for at least one suit at law.

If Governor Taft succeeds in inducing the Vatican to endorse his plans for the purchase of the friars' lands, he will be a bigger man than Friar Tuck.

President Taylor of Vassar says that Vassar graduates should marry. The doctor will please remember that, in this case, man proposes but woman disposes.

The war in the Philippines has cost over a hundred and seventy million dollars. There is any amount of consolation in this when one thinks of the cost of the war in the Transvaal.

The anti-reciprocity senators are giving the President about the most strenuous tussle of his life. There is reason to believe that he would prefer to have it a little less strenuous.

In a letter to the New York Herald, Mr. Richard Mansfield declares that the art of acting is declining, and even expresses the fear that it may disappear altogether. This shows that Richard is himself again.

Michigan and other great universities have proven that co-education is a success. Utah and other western states have proven that co-education in politics is a success. Let other states follow their example.

A recent magazine writer states that there are several hundred persons with a better hereditary claim to the English throne than Edward's. But he has the patent royal to his claim and is in possession of the property.

"A switch is not a good instrument of punishment. A strong grasp with the suggestion of great power behind it is much better," says a distinguished educator. Still the switch has done wonderful things in the past and may be useful in the future.

The town never was fuller of vagrants than at present. The new ordinance on vagrancy provides, among other things, that for a person "to be connected in any manner with any gambling game, trick, scheme or device, or who shall aid, assist, abet or encourage in any manner any person so connected" shall be unlawful, yet, if current reports are based on facts, there is now an epidemic of gambling such as there never was before. The ordinance properly applied would do much to stop the epidemic.

Gov. Heard of Louisiana has been notified by the British consul that Louisiana cattle will be shut out of South Africa. This action is believed to be in retaliation for Heard's protest to the state department against mule shipments and the operations of the British military camp at Port Chalmers. If the governor's course in the Port Chalmers affair is the cause for shutting out Louisiana cattle from South Africa, it is a small and contemptible piece of retaliation. The matter should and doubtless will receive the attention of the state department.

KING EDWARD.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The king has desired to make himself the central figure in everything that is done for peace done, and therefore he has over-exerted himself. At 61 years of age he exposes himself as freely as a young man of 30. His physicians say the chill was very slight, yet on Sunday he was confined to his room in Buckingham palace, free from the interruption of all visitors, and the rest he will thereby gain will throw off the effects of the chill. In coronation ceremonies so much depends upon the health of one man, that people are naturally nervous at the least aberration from the accustomed health of the sovereign. He must be a well man in order to act as supreme master of the ceremonies.

Baltimore American.

Americans can put but one interpretation on the exceptional courtesies shown to the United States ambassador to the court of St. James by King Edward and his consort, Queen Alexandra. Their visit to the official residence of Mr. and Mrs. Choate and their entertainment in a mansion from which floats the Stars and Stripes give new proof of King Edward's determination to win all to hold, if he can, the friendship of this country, and also proof of his appreciation of the value of that

friendship. This is the same desire which was shown by Emperor William of Germany when he sent his brother, Prince Henry, to this country, and there is no reason why Americans should not show a proper appreciation of such royal courtesies, accepting them in the kindly spirit in which they are tendered.

Christian Register.

Cynics may sneer, as they do, and declare that the social amenities now conspicuous in the relations between America and European nations have no meaning and will not make peace more certain. Prince Henry brings the personal greetings of the German emperor, the French emperor expresses the good will of France, and King Edward dines with the American ambassador and our special envoy sent to the coronation. Such things are trifles light as air compared with the weightier matters of trade, tariffs and territorial expansion. But, although they are trifles, they show a new spirit and a new way of expressing friendship. They make peace abhorrent, and show that the ideas of conquest so common a hundred years ago are giving place to thoughts of mutual advantage to be gained through mutual helpfulness. The attitude is a new one, and the spirit manifested will grow. Gentlemen who become personal friends do not like to fight each other even by proxy.

THE KAISER'S GIFT.

Charleston News and Courier.

With every deference to the views of those who think differently, we confess to an inability to appreciate or perceive either the appropriateness or the value of the donation which the German Kaiser is bent upon making to this nation. Even having made the most generous allowance for recent changes in the spirit and purposes of this government, we fail to understand just why a statue of Frederick the Great should be regarded as a fitting ornament for the public grounds at the national capital. We do not happen to recall anything in the life or conduct of the great emperor which placed him even remotely in touch with our national purposes.

New York Sun.

It is true that he forbade German troops to serve in America, under the English flag in America to travel any part of his dominions on their way to the seacoast. This he did because he detested the practice of selling German blood for money. We add that his prohibition did not prevent German mercenaries from reaching the seacoast by other routes. What the American colonies wanted, and what would have been of great moral benefit to them in their struggle for liberty, was a formal acknowledgment of their independence by the court of Berlin. This concession they were unable to obtain from Frederick the Great.

Washington Star.

Why reject statues and accept paintings of kings? And why not blot out such names as St. Louis, Louisville, and Maryland, and others, recalling royalty? And why not condemn Washington for fighting alongside of "king's men" for American independence, and Lincoln for his willingness to accept a caesar's aid when the Union was in danger? While we are about it, why not round up, after the Texas fashion, statues, paintings, names and everything, including royalty and clap the hot brand of our disapproval on them? Let no guilty king escape!

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